

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 164331
ORIGIN OES-07

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APPROVED BY OES:RCBREWSTER
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SV, AR

SUBJECT ANTARCTIC TREATY: ARGENTINE CONCERN ABOUT U.S.
PROPOS PROCEDURES FOR RECOGNITION OF CONSULTATIVE STATUS

REFS: A) STATE 141665; B) STATE 152477; C) BUENOS AIRES
5166

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES WITH INTEREST THE VIEWS EXPRESSED
BY MFA SPOKESMAN QUADRI ON DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ARGENTINE
AND U.S. ON PROCEDURES FOR RECOGNIZING CONSULTATIVE STATUS
OF ACCEDING PARTIES TO THE ANTARCTIC TREATY. WE
ARE PLEASED THAT ARGENTINA AGREES WITH US THAT POLAND HAS
DEMONSTRATED ITS QUALIFICATIONS UNDER ARTICLE IX(2) OF THE
TREATY. WE LIKewise WANT THE SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING
TO BE A SUCCESS, AND TRUST THAT MEANS CAN BE FOUND TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 164331

BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS.

2. WE APPRECIATE THE EFFORT OF THE ARGENTINES IN PROVIDING
A DRAFT OF PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MONTHLY
PREPARATORY MEETINGS. THE DRAFT WAS STUDIED CAREFULLY BY
THE U.S. ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC U.S. COMMENT AT THE MONTHLY
MEETINGS, AS STATED BY THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, WAS NOT TO

BE INTERPRETED AS U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF THE ARGENTINE PROPOSAL
OR THE LATER TEXT WORKED OUT BY THE UK WITH HELP OF

ARGENTINA REP AND SEVERAL OTHER CONSULTATIVE PARTY REPS.
IN SPIRIT OF THE PREPARATORY NATURE OF THE MEETINGS, THE
U.S. FIRST CIRCULATED ITS PROPOSAL TO CONSULTATIVE PARTY
REPS IN LONDON ON JUNE 24, A FULL MONTH BEFORE THE
SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING (REFTEL A), AND DISCUSSED IT
IN DETAIL AT THE JULY 6 MONTHLY MEETING (INSTRUCTION TO
U.S. REP ARE IN REFTEL B) IN ORDER THAT GOVERNMENTS WOULD
BE INFORMED BEFORE THE JULY 25 SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE
MEETING. THE U.S. PROPOSAL, IN OUR VIEW, COMPORTS FULLY
WITH THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY; IT DOES
NOT ESTABLISH AN UNDULY RIGID PROCEDURE THAT COULD BE
INTERPRETED AS AN OBSTACLE TO A RIGHT GRANTED BY THE
TREATY ITSELF. WE HAVE IDENTIFIED CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT
FOR OUR PROPOSAL AMONG OTHER CONSULTATIVE PARTIES.

3. DEPARTMENT IS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BOTH AT THE CHARAC-
TERIZATION OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL AS "UNACCEPTABLE" AND
AT THE ARGENTINES INSISTENCE ON SUCH FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR RECOGNITION OF A RIGHT ALREADY OBTAINING UNDER THE
TREATY. WE ARE ALSO PUZZLED BY THE ARGENTINE ALLUSION TO
THE NEED FOR "FULL POWERS", AS ASSERTED BY THE ARGENTINE
REP IN LONDON, WHEN THE MATTER AT HAND IS ESSENTIALLY
PROCEDURAL.
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PAGE 03 STATE 164331

4. THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE
MEETING, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROBERT C. BREWSTER,
WILL ARRIVE IN LONDON A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE JULY 25TH
OPENING. HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH ARGENTINE REP
AND WILL TRY TO CONTACT AMBASSADOR BELTRAMINO DURING
WEEKEND JULY 23-24.

5. FYI. DEPARTMENT FLATLY DISAGREES WITH THE ARGENTINES
ASSUMPTION THAT THEIR PROPOSAL, AS REFLECTED IN THE "SNT",
IS A FAIT ACCOMPLI. NOR DO WE AGREE THAT OUR PROPOSAL
SURFACED AFTER CONSENSUS HAD BEEN REACHED ON THE "SNT".
THAT, AS EVEN THE UK DRAFTER HAS STRESSED, IS ONLY A
WORKING PAPER AND A "NEGOTIATING", NOT "NEGOTIATED" TEXT.
THE SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED TO
WORK OUT A SET OF AGREED PROCEDURES. IT IS NOT, IN OUR
VIEW, ESSENTIAL THAT EVERY WRINKLE BE IRONED OUT BEFORE
JULY 25. END FYI.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES SHOULD MAKE
POINTS IN PARA 1-4 TO QUADRI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, DRAWING
ALSO ON REFTEL B. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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